

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In the action under reply, the Examiner stated that original claim 3 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

By this submission, applicant amends claim 1 to include all of the limitations of original dependent claim 3 and, consistent with that amendment, now cancels original dependent claim 3.

The Examiner's attention is directed to the fact that applicant has also added additional language to amended claim 1 to further clarify the meaning of the subject matter now incorporated from original claim 3. Specifically, claim 1 now recites that the "backing layer is unattached to said backside surface of said foam layer over said centrally located opening of said base layer." In Figure 2, it is shown that backing layer 13 contacts the corners of foam layer 11, and it is also explained in the specification that the spacing between the two layers is shown for clarity of illustration and that in actual practice the backing layer may make additional contact with the foam layer. What is believed critical is that the backing layer be unattached to the backside surface of the foam layer in the area of the centrally located opening 17 of the base layer so that the foam layer is free to dip downwardly into contact with the wound through the base layer's opening.

Since original claim 3 was found to contain allowable subject matter, and since that claim has now been incorporated into independent claim 1, a detailed discussion of the references cited upon in the official action is believed unnecessary. All of the remaining claims of the application depend either directly or indirectly from amended claim 1. As so amended, it is I believe that applicant's claims are clearly and patentably distinguishable from the references of record and are now in proper condition for allowance.

Appl. No. 10/007,445
Amd. Dated March 18, 2004
Reply to Office Action mailed September 26, 2003



Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John B. Lungmus".

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Date: March 18, 2004

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